

### REMARKS

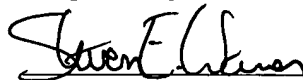
Applicant requests favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-21 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 6, 13, 14, 17 and 18 are independent. Claims 17-21 have been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-16 were previously allowed in this application. In addition to these claims being allowable, Applicant submits that claims 17-21 patentably define features of the method, the storage medium storing a program which causes a computer to execute a method, the exposure apparatus and the device manufacturing method of the present invention. Accordingly, the instant application should be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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